Appendix F

Conservation Measures

HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY & GENERAL CONSERVATION MEASURES
BLM will develop a site bulletin on project objectives and methods. This bulletin will be available to all users of the recreation area, including boaters, hikers, anglers and site seers. Posting will be in the Rio Grande Visitor Center and in the campgrounds where appropriate. Information will be posted on BLM's internet website and mailed to those who request it.
Herbicide applications will be done only by experienced personnel who hold Certified Applicators Licenses issued by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.
All information and instructions will be rigorously followed by Certified Pesticide Applicators. All herbicide containers will show product labels and will be leak and spill proof. All storage containers will be labeled with the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) that will clearly show underneath a waterproof plastic sheet. The MSDS will contain fire and explosive hazard data, environmental and disposal information, health hazards, and first aid information. All application equipment and chemicals will be stored in water proof containers while near the water. All participants will review the MSDS with a project leader, emphasizing first aid instructions.
An approved Pesticide Use Plan will be obtained by the Certified Pesticide Applicator prior to herbicide use.
Herbicide application by Certified Pesticide Applicators will conform to procedures found in BLM Handbook H-9011-1 and the herbicide label. Site specific analysis and herbicide treatment plans would be prepared and implemented for each herbicide application project. Herbicide treatment applications will only be permitted if it is determined in the analysis that the actual risk of ground water contamination appears to be low for described and specified reasons.
Herbicide applicators will have a chemical spill plan and emergency cleanup kit onsite during treatments. The spill plan will identify methods to avoid accidental spills as well as how to report and clean up spills. The kit will contain appropriate spill cleanup supplies. The Certified Pesticide Applicator will notify BLM and the appropriate State authorities of any spillage or other unauthorized releases of the pesticide to the environment, as required by law.
Herbicides will not be aerially applied.
A hazardous material and safety plan will be written by the Certified Pesticide Applicator and reviewed by all project leaders. Project participants will understand and abide by the safety plan. Rubber gloves, long sleeve shirts, masks, and goggles will always be required while using herbicides.
All participants in the chemical treatments will receive tool safety training from a Certified Pesticide Applicator, and are required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for each assigned task.
All trash and unused materials will be removed and properly disposed of upon completion of each phase of the project by the Certified Pesticide Applicator.
No public lands will be used for storage or disposal of the pesticide materials. The Certified Pesticide Applicator will be responsible for the proper handling, storage, and disposal of all unused or waste pesticide materials and containers.
All herbicides and application equipment will be stored separately from food and personal items by the Certified Pesticide Applicator.
All disposals of used gloves, goggles, masks, herbicide containers will have designated trash bins that will be marked bio-hazard material by the Certified Pesticide Applicator.
Some areas may be closed temporarily by the BLM during weed treatment activities to ensure public safety.
VEGETATION & RIPARIAN RESOURCES

Certified Pesticide Applicators will not mix or load herbicides within 200 feet of live water, and will adhere to other safety measures listed in the chemical spill plan.
Certified Pesticide Applicators will not apply herbicides if snow or ice covers the target weed plant, to avoid runoff into soil and onto nontarget vegetation.
Revegetation practices will use the minimum tool necessary in their implementation.
Where soils are disturbed, reclamation measures to prevent erosion would include returning the land to as near its natural form as possible and, if the site is not thought capable of revegetating naturally, in order to avoid colonization by weedy species, reseeding with mixtures of certified weed-free native grasses and forbs or native riparian shrub and tree species. The selection of plant materials to be seeded and planted would consider wildlife and assure that food and cover needs for the widest variety of wildlife are met. Visitor needs would be considered in landscaping adjacent treatment sites.
BLM will provide all participants with instructions on *Leave No Trace* procedures before working in the recreation area.
To reduce soil compaction, the minimum number of workers necessary will work in one area and the BLM project leader will determine access routes that will cause minimal disturbance to important vegetation. If possible, already existing trails will be used.
BLM and contractor vehicles will be clean of weed seeds before entering the area and properly cleaned before leaving the area to avoid further spread of weeds.
All weeds manually excavated after flower bud stage will be double-bagged and properly disposed of at an approved facility (i.e., covered landfill) or burned in a ditch under controlled conditions.
Heavy equipment will not be used to mechanically dig up weeds within riparian zones to avoid impacts to water quality, stream morphology or aquatic resources.
WILDLIFE & SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES
Prior to treatments, nest searches will be conducted by the BLM or authorized contractor in and around treatment areas to minimize impacts to migratory birds.
To minimize impacts to wildlife, this project will occur over a long time period (10-15 years). Protocol surveys for Southwestern willow flycatcher will occur throughout the life of the project, or as long as the species remains listed. If Southwestern willow flycatcher territories were identified within the project area, a 1/4 mile buffer would be established around them to avoid disturbance to the species or alteration of habitat in areas being used territorially. All project related activity would be excluded from this buffer zone. Project related vegetation management on saltcedar and other exotic tree species, and the noise associated therewith, would be conducted outside the Southwestern willow flycatcher breeding season, which extends from May 1 through August of each year. This specific project activity would be restricted between April 15 and September 15.
Coordination and consultation between the BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be maintained throughout the life of the project to discuss Southwestern willow flycatcher territory locations, make adjustments to the treatment schedule/site locations and buffer size, and/or mitigate any potential adverse affects to threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat.
All herbicide applications will be limited to those herbicides and application rates documented to have a low risk to wildlife species. For herbicides not labeled for aquatic environments, buffers of 10 feet from the streambank will be required.
All participants will be informed by the BLM wildlife biologist of special status species in the area, and if seen or heard will inform the BLM wildlife biologist.
Threatened and endangered (T&E) species surveys will be conducted annually by the BLM or its authorized agent, to monitor affects to any potential T&E species due to implementation of weed control treatments. In most cases, the amount of land not being treated near the treatment area will adequately serve the habitat needs of the wildlife in the area.

CULTURAL RESOURCES
A cultural clearance of treatment areas by the BLM will be completed prior to surface disturbance methods. If cultural sites are found, they will be protected from the effects of the treatment methods and/or surface disturbance.